Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 to 8. (Canceled).

9. (Currently Amended) [[The]] A computer system ~~of claim 8~~ for modification of stored hierarchical data files, comprising:

a customizing table configured to store a plurality of data sets, each data set unique to a particular one of a plurality of hierarchical data file types; and

a processor configured to convert data between a first format and one of a plurality of user-modifiable document formats, wherein:

when the data is in the first format, the data is arranged as an hierarchical document;

when the data is in the user-modifiable document format, the data is arranged as a plurality of data elements, the arrangement configured to provide a document context;

the conversion includes a first conversion and a second conversion;

in the first conversion, the processor is configured to convert, according to one of the data sets, the data between the first format and a second format;

in the second conversion, the processor is configured to convert the data between the second format and the user-modifiable document format, the data set not required for the second conversion;

when the data is in the second format, the data is arranged as the plurality of data elements, the arrangement configured to provide the document context;

when a download-button is selected, the processor is configured to convert the data from the first format to the second format, and then from the second format to the user-modifiable document format;

when an upload-button is selected, the processor is configured to convert the data from the user-modifiable document format to the second format, and then from the second format to the first format; and

the processor is configured to:

open a hierarchical data file for a first user ~~can enter~~ in a change-mode ~~for a hierarchical data file~~, and ~~wherein~~

open the hierarchical data file for a second user ~~can enter~~ in a display-mode and [[not]] bar the second user from opening the hierarchical data file in the change-mode ~~for the hierarchical data file~~ when the first user enters the change-mode for the hierarchical data file, the upload-button selectable when in the change-mode and not selectable when in the display-mode, the download-button selectable when in one of the display-mode and the change-mode.

10. (Currently Amended) The computer system of claim 9, wherein:

when in the display-mode, the data of the hierarchical data file is modifiable by the second user, ~~can modify the data of the hierarchical data file~~ and ~~locally save~~ the modified data is locally savable ~~when in the display-mode,~~; and ~~wherein~~

the second user automatically enters the change-mode when the first user exits the change-mode.

Claims 11 to 29. (Canceled).

30. (Currently Amended) A [[The]] computer-implemented method for modification of stored hierarchical data files ~~of claim 29~~, ~~further~~ comprising:

storing a plurality of data sets, each data set unique to a particular one of a plurality of hierarchical data file types;

converting data between a first format and one of a plurality of user-modifiable document formats;

a first user entering into a change-mode for a hierarchical data file; and

a second user entering into a display-mode and not the change-mode for the hierarchical data file when the first user enters the change-mode for the hierarchical data file,

wherein:

[[the]] an upload-button is selectable when in the change-mode and not selectable when in the display-mode; [[, the]]

a download-button is selectable when in one of the display-mode and the change-mode;

when the data is in the fir st format, the data is arranged as an hierarchical document;

converting the data from the first format to the user-modifiable document format includes arranging the data as a plurality of data elements, the arrangement providing a document context;

the conversion includes a first conversion and a second conversion;

the first conversion includes converting, according to one of the data sets, the data between the first format and a second format;

the second conversion includes converting the data between the second format and the user-modifiable document format, the data set not required for the second conversion;

converting the data from the first format to the second format includes arranging the data as the plurality of data elements, the arrangement providing the document context;

when the download-button is selected, the data is converted:

from the first format to the second format in the first conversion; and

from the second format to the user-modifiable document format in the second conversion; and

when the upload-button is selected, the data is converted:

from the user-modifiable document format to the second format in the second conversion; and

from the second format to the first format in the first conversion.

31. (Currently Amended) The computer-implemented method of claim 30, wherein when in the display-mode, the data of the hierarchical data file is modifiable by the second user, ~~can modify the data of the hierarchical data file~~ and ~~locally save~~ the modified data is locally savable ~~when in the display-mode~~, the second user automatically entering the change-mode when the first user exits the change-mode.

Claims 32 to 44. (Canceled).

45. (New) A computer system for modification of stored documents, comprising:

a database of stored documents;

a metadata file storing metadata describing the data of each of the documents; and

a processor configured to, responsive to a download request:

extract data from one of the stored documents referenced by the request;

associate the extracted data with the metadata from the metadata file describing the extracted data; and

store the extracted data and the metadata in a user-modifiable tab separated file, which when opened displays the extracted data and the metadata.

46. (New) The computer system of claim 45, wherein:

the metadata file is one of a plurality of metadata files, each associated with a different document type;

the processor includes a server processor and a client processor;

the server processor is configured to store the extracted data and the metadata in an intermediate file having a format that is universal to all the different document types; and

the client processor is configured to store the extracted data and the metadata from the intermediate file in the tab separated file.

47. (New) The computer system of claim 46, wherein the extracted data are interspersed within the metadata when arranged in the intermediate file, and the extracted data and the metadata are separately arranged in the tab separated file.

48. (New) The computer system of claim 47, wherein, in the tab separated file, the metadata is arranged in a first group of data-cells and the extracted data are arranged in a second group of data-cells.

49. (New) The computer system of claim 46, wherein:

when a download-button is selected:

      the server processor is configured to store the extracted data and the metadata in the intermediate file; and

      the client processor is configured to subsequently generate the tab separated file from the intermediate file; and

when an upload-button is selected:

      the client processor is configured to generate a modified version of the intermediate file from the tab separated file; and

      the server processor is configured to subsequently generate a modified version of the document from the modified version of the intermediate file based on the metadata.

50. (New) The computer system of claim 49, wherein, when the server processor generates the modified version of the document, the server processor is configured to determine whether data in the modified version of the intermediate file includes a modification to the extracted data, and to generate the modified version of the document by an arrangement in the document from which the processor extracted data of only a modified portion of the data in the modified version of the intermediate file.

51. (New) The computer system of claim 50, wherein the data in the modified version of the intermediate file includes metadata that includes an upload-indicator, the server processor configured to determine whether the data in the modified version of the intermediate file includes the modification based on the upload-indicator.

52. (New) The computer system of claim 45, wherein the metadata is configured to be user understandable.

53. (New) The computer system of claim 45, wherein the metadata includes a modifiability indicator that indicates whether a portion of the extracted data associated with the modifiability indicator is modifiable by a user.

54. (New) The computer system of claim 53, wherein, in response to an upload instruction, the processor is configured to generate a modified version of the document from the tab separated file and return an error message if the tab separated file contains a non-modifiable extracted data element that has been modified.

55. (New) The computer system of claim 45, wherein the tab separated file is opened as a spreadsheet.

56. (New) The computer system of claim 45, wherein, when a download-button is selected, the processor is configured to responsively open and display the tab separated file if a file size of the tab separated file does not exceed a predetermined threshold, and to transmit the tab separated file as an e-mail attachment if the file size exceeds the predetermined threshold.

57. (New) The computer system of claim 45, wherein, when an upload-button is selected, the processor is configured to responsively:

generate a modified version of the document from the user-modifiable tab separated file; and

conditional upon that the user-modifiable tab separated file does not exceed a predetermined threshold, suspend user-interactive functionality of an application environment in which the upload-button was selected during the generation of the modified version of the document, the functionality returning subsequent to the generation.

58. (New) The computer system of claim 45, wherein:

after a modification of the user-modifiable tab separated file by a user, the processor is configured to generate a modified version of the document from the modified tab separated file; and

after the generation of the modified version of the document, an option is provided to the user to choose between saving and discarding the modification.

59. (New) The computer system of claim 45, wherein, when the extracted data is in the user-modifiable tab separated file, the extracted data is sortable in one of a generic and a customized manner.

60. (New) The computer system of claim 45, wherein, the tab separated file is modifiable by a user by at least one of deleting, adding to, and changing data elements of the extracted data.

61. (New) The computer system of claim 60, wherein the tab separated file is modifiable by the user by adding at least one dynamic data element to the tab separated file.

62. (New) A computer-implemented method for modification of stored documents, comprising:

responsive to a download request:

extracting data from a document;

associating the extracted data with metadata from a metadata file describing the extracted data; and

storing the extracted data and the metadata in a user-modifiable tab separated file, which when opened displays the extracted data and the metadata.

63. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 62, wherein:

the metadata file is one of a plurality of metadata files, each associated with a different document type; and

the storing includes:

storing the extracted data and the metadata in an intermediate file having a format universal to all the different document types; and

storing the extracted data and the metadata from the intermediate file in the tab separated file.

64. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 63, wherein the extracted data are interspersed within the metadata when arranged in the intermediate file, and the extracted data and the metadata are separately arranged in the tab separated file.

65. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 64, wherein, in the tab separated file, the metadata is arranged in a first group of data-cells and the extracted data are arranged in a second group of data-cells.

66. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 63, further comprising:

when an upload-button is selected:

generating a modified version of the intermediate file from the tab separated file;

and

generating a modified version of the document from the modified version of the

intermediate file based on the metadata;

wherein, when a download-button is selected:

the extracted data and the metadata are stored in the intermediate file; and

the tab separated file is subsequently generated from the intermediate file.

67. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 66, further comprising:

when the modified version of the document is generated, determining whether data in the

modified version of the intermediate file includes a modification to the extracted data;

wherein the modified version of the document is generated by an arrangement in the

document from which the extracted data was extracted of only a modified portion of the data in

the modified version of the intermediate file.

68. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 67, wherein the data in the

modified version of the intermediate file includes metadata that includes an upload-indicator that

is the basis for determining whether the modification is included.

69. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 62, wherein the metadata is user

understandable.

70. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 62, wherein the metadata

includes a modifiability indicator that indicates whether a portion of the extracted data associated

with the modifiability indicator is modifiable by a user.

71. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 70, further comprising:

in response to an upload instruction:

  generating a modified version of the document from the tab separated file; and

  returning an error message if the tab separated file contains a non-modifiable
extracted data element that has been modified.

72. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 62, further comprising:

responsive to a selection of a download-button:

  opening and displaying the tab separated file if a file size of the tab separated file
does not exceed a predetermined threshold; and

  transmitting the tab separated file as an e-mail attachment if the file size exceeds
the predetermined threshold.

73. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 62, further comprising:

responsive to a selection of an upload-button:

  generating a modified version of the document from the tab separated file; and

  conditional upon that a size of the tab separated file does not exceed a
predetermined threshold:

    suspending user-interactive functionality of an application environment in
    which the upload-button was selected during the generation of the modified
    version of the document; and

    returning the functionality subsequent to the generation.

74. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 62, further comprising:

after a modification of the tab separated file by a user, generating a modified version of
the document from the modified tab separated file; and

after the generation of the modified version of the document, providing an option to the
user to choose between saving and discarding the modification.

75. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 62, further comprising:

when the extracted data is in the tab separated file, sorting the extracted data in one of a generic and a customized manner.

76. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 62, further comprising:

one of deleting, adding to, and changing data elements of the extracted data when the extracted data is in the tab separated file.

77. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 76, further comprising:

adding at least one dynamic data element to the tab separated file.

78. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 62, wherein the tab separated file is opened as a spreadsheet.

79. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 62, wherein the document is an hierarchical document.

80. (New) An article of manufacture comprising a computer-readable medium having stored thereon instructions adapted to be executed by a processor, the instructions which, when executed, define a series of steps to be used to control a method for modification of stored documents, the method comprising:

responsive to a download request:

extracting data from a document;

associating the extracted data with metadata from a metadata file describing the extracted data; and

storing the extracted data and the metadata in a user-modifiable tab separated file, which when opened displays the extracted data and the metadata.

81. (New) A computer system for modification of stored documents, comprising:

a database of stored documents, the documents each having a graphical layout component and data representing completed fields of the document arranged according to the graphical layout component in order to provide a context for the data;

a metadata file storing metadata describing the data of each of the documents, wherein the context for the data of the documents is provided without reference to the metadata; and

a processor configured to, responsive to a download request:

extract data from one of the stored documents referenced by the request;

associate the extracted data with the metadata; and

store the extracted data and the metadata in a user-modifiable file, which when opened displays the extracted data and the metadata.

82. (New) The computer system of claim 81, wherein the document is an hierarchical document.

83. (New) A computer-implemented method for modification of stored documents, comprising:

responsive to a download request:

from a document having a graphical layout component and data representing completed fields of the document arranged according to the graphical layout component in order to provide a context for the data, extracting the data;

associating the extracted data with metadata that is stored in a metadata file and describes the data of the document, wherein the context for the data of the document is provided without reference to the metadata; and

storing the extracted data and the metadata in a user-modifiable file, which when opened displays the extracted data and the metadata.

84. (New) The computer-implemented method of claim 83, wherein the document is an hierarchical document.